

**WESTMINSTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
May 26, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER A regular meeting of the Westminster Traffic Commission was called to order by Chairman Hamade on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, at 6:20 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, California.

SALUTE TO FLAG Vice Chairman Fisher led the members of the audience in the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL Commissioners Present: Cruz, Robbins, Fisher, Nguyen.

Commissioners Absent: Hamade

STAFF PRESENT Adolfo Ozaeta, Associate Civil Engineer; Sergeant Mark Nye, Westminster Police Department; Veronica Johnson, Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES The minutes of the Traffic Commission's regular meeting of April 28, 2009 were continued to the next meeting (4-0)

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED The first item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 78-112, a request to rescind parking restrictions on the east side of La Pat Place between Humboldt Street and Westminster Boulevard.

T.C. 78-112 La Pat btwn Humboldt and Westminster Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that Mr. and Mrs. Davis (6632 Humboldt Street) expressed their concern regarding insufficient on-street parking in their neighborhood to the Mayor and City Council at their meeting of April 22, 2009. The Mayor and City Council directed staff that this matter be presented to the Traffic Commission.

Furthermore, in May 2009, staff received a written request and petition from Mr. and Mrs. Davis to rescind parking restrictions on the east side of La Pat Place between Humboldt Street and Westminster Boulevard.

Mr. Ozaeta explained to the Commission that currently there is no parking allowed on La Pat Place between Westminster Boulevard and Humboldt Street. La Pat Place consists of multi-family dwelling units on the east side and a

combination of multi-family and single-family units on the west side. The east side has an estimated 38 parking spaces and 14 driveways; the west side has an estimated 26 parking spaces and 24 driveways.

Mr. Ozaeta reminded the Commission that a request for rescinding parking restrictions on both sides of La Pat Place was previously heard on May 27, 2008. At that meeting residents that spoke against rescinding the parking restrictions felt that off-street parking was not being utilized properly. The Commission denied that request and directed staff to investigate the inadequate parking on Humboldt Street in the future. As a follow-up, staff worked with Code Enforcement to verify that off-street parking was being used for the parking of vehicles only. Notices of code violations were not issued to any resident as a result of Code Enforcement inspection.

STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the parking restrictions on the east side of La Pat Place be rescinded. If parking is rescinded on the west side, residents of the multi-family units on the east side are likely to park in front of the single family homes.

Vice Chairman Fisher opened this item up for discussion.

The following people spoke in favor of rescinding the parking restrictions:

David Davis (6632 Humboldt Avenue) stated that there is no parking in front of his home, people regularly park on his street for more than 72 hours, there is no parking available for visitors, and off-street parking for the multi-family units are not being used properly.

Tuyen Dinh (6592 Humboldt Avenue) stated that if parking is restored on the east side, signs should be installed cautioning of children in the area.

Felicistas Moreida (13681 La Pat Place) stated that residents of the multi-family units park in front of her home and leave the vehicles parked for long periods of time. She stated that residents arrive in two separate vehicles, drop off one vehicle, and drive back to the multi-family units together.

The following people spoke against rescinding the parking restrictions:

Jose Santos (13772, 13782, 13826, 13832 La Pat Place) representing the owner of the above apartment complexes, stated that people feel safer with the existing parking restrictions; there are no more problems with loitering or drug activity. The main concern is safety for the tenants and the children going to school. There are less traffic collisions now than when parking was allowed on La Pat Place. Children are seen crossing the street on a regular basis and vehicles continue to drive very fast on La Pat Place. He agrees that residents of Humboldt Street need parking and suggests that parking restrictions be implemented on Humboldt Street, along with more police enforcement. He feels that allowing parking on La Pat Place would create more problems.

Donna Mancilla (13782 La Pat Place #18) stated that she lived in the area when parking was allowed on La Pat Place and recalls a great deal of drug activity, prostitution, and traffic collisions. Her tenants all have carports that are being used properly and she does not believe her tenants are parking for long periods of time on Humboldt Street. She feels that the neighborhood has improved with the parking restrictions on La Pat Place.

Sgt. Nye stated that he had worked in the area when parking was allowed and has seen it change for the better with the current parking restrictions. He suggested rescinding the parking restrictions on the west side because there is more traffic in and out of the east driveways. Parking on the east side would decrease the sight visibility at the driveways and increase the risk of traffic collisions. He also felt there would be increased loitering in front of the multi-family units if parking is rescinded on the east side.

Commissioner Cruz agreed with Sgt. Nye and stated that it would be safer to allow parking on the west side due to the increased traffic in and out of the east driveways from the apartment complexes, Vice Chairman Fisher agreed. Commissioner Robbins agreed with rescinding parking on the west side. Sgt. Nye clarified for Commissioner Nguyen that the crime has gone down since the implementation of the parking restrictions and he cannot say if the crime would return.

Discussion followed regarding the amount of parking that would be available on the east and west side, the parking on Humboldt, the overflow parking of the apartments on the street, and the right to park in front of single family homes.

Commissioner Robbins stated that without further parking restrictions, there would still be parking issues on Humboldt.

MOTION

Commissioner Robbins moved to rescind the parking restrictions on the west side of La Pat Place between Westminster Boulevard and Humboldt Street; seconded by Commissioner Nguyen.

VOTE

The motion carried by a 4-0 vote with Chairman Hamade being absent.

The second item to be considered at tonight's meeting was T.C. 79-111, Request to Install All-Way Stop Signs at the Intersection of Chinook Avenue and Cascade Street (Currently an Two-Way Stop).

**T.C. 79-11
Chinook and Cascade**

Mr. Ozaeta explained that the area in question borders Huntington Beach and is a popular cut through route for Springdale to Edwards. Staff received a written request from Ms. Miller at 6102 Chinook Avenue. The intersection went through a detailed engineering analysis using the guidelines from the MUTCD. If all-way stops are installed which do not meet the warrants, statistics show they are more likely to create non-compliance.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that there have been no reported traffic accidents at this intersection. The traffic volume does not meet the warrant of 500 vehicles per hour per day. The highest volume was 164. The 85th percentile speed was approximately 38 miles per hour, neither street meeting the 40 miles per hour established by the MUTCD.

**STAFF'S
RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends denying the installation of an all-way stop at the intersection of Chinook Avenue and Cascade Street because it does not meet the warrants for an all-way stop.

Vice Chairman Fisher opened the item for discussion.

The following people spoke in favor of the installation of an all-way stop:

Paula Nieto (6102 Chinook) stated that there is a lot of traffic on Chinook due to the school, the Church, and the towing company. People drive at excessive speeds down the street. Ms Nieto mentioned there were a lot of speed signs in Huntington Beach which made her aware of her speed.

Andrew Hardin (6132 Chinook) stated that he was surprised with the volume of traffic found with the traffic analysis. Mr. Hardin sees many kids at this intersection and he worries about their safety. Mr. Ozaeta interjected that the speed survey is done during the off peak hours.

Helen Antrim (6151 Chinook) commented that there was not a problem with speeding until the development was built with an entrance on Springdale and one on Cascade and Chinook from Huntington Beach. The school, which many parents drive their children to, contribute to the speeding problem in the mornings and afternoons.

Herbert Antrim (6151 Chinook) reiterated that the parents dropping their children off were often the drivers speeding down the street. He suggested a sign advising drivers to slow down or pavement markings be installed.

Bob Meade (14262 Ida Way) stated that since the streets in the neighborhood are small, they are more aware of the speeding drivers. He believes the Stop Sign would help to slow the drivers down.

Robert Coomes (5152 Chinook) commented that Chinook is used as a cut through to Westminster Mall and the traffic has increased in the last couple of years.

No one spoke in opposition.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that he received one phone call in opposition of the installation of an all-way stop.

Commissioner Cruz asked what the speed limit was in the area; Sgt. Nye responded that it was 25 miles per hour. Mr. Ozaeta commented that the speed limit was not posted.

Discussion followed regarding the enforcement of the area, educating the private school, new advisory signs in the neighborhood.

Vice Chairman Fisher commented that this issue is prevalent in the entire City and stop signs cannot be placed everywhere. Commissioner Nguyen stated that with school areas, there was more likely to be cut through traffic and speeding.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that staff could install speed limit advisory signs at the entrance to the community, and once the radar enforced signs are approved, those could be

installed, as well as refreshing the pavement markings. In response to Commissioner Nguyen's question, Mr. Ozaeta explained there were no reported accidents. Members of the audience stated that there were many close calls.

MOTION

Commissioner Nguyen moved to install all-way stop signs at the intersection of Chinook Avenue and Cascade Street. The motion died for lack of a second. Vice Chairman Fisher moved to install the radar enforced signage and refresh and install the pavement markings, seconded by Commissioner Cruz.

VOTE

The motion carried by a 4-0 vote with Chairman Hamade being absent.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission of the letter written to a resident requesting "Keep Clear" markings at Bushard and Sean Way. Staff replied that the location did meet the warrants and was denying the request.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no "Old Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

There were no "Information and Reports" presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no "Oral Communications" presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were no "Written Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

ITEMS COMMISSIONERS/ STAFF MAY WISH TO DISCUSS

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission of the upcoming construction on Newland Street, north of Westminster to south of Oasis. Newland and Oasis will be closed for a time period. Staff is working with Garden Grove on this project. Construction will begin sometime this fall and continue for approximately eight months.

Mr. Ozaeta commented that the Traffic Commissioner's workshop is canceled for this year.

Commissioner Robbins informed the Commission that he would be missing the July and November Traffic Commission meetings.

Vice Chairman Fisher brought up the timing of the traffic signal at Hazard and Newland. Mr. Ozaeta responded that staff had been working with the County for years on a new signal. There has been talk about the City incorporating portions of the County and the County will probably wait on the installation. Staff would more likely work on adding a protected left to the current signal.

Mr. Ozaeta further informed the Commission about the installation of battery backup systems for locations throughout the City.

Vice Chairman Fisher brought up for discussion the stimulus funding. Mr. Ozaeta replied that all the cities would get equal portions of the funding.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marwan Youssef
Public Works Director/City Engineer

By: Veronica Johnson, Secretary